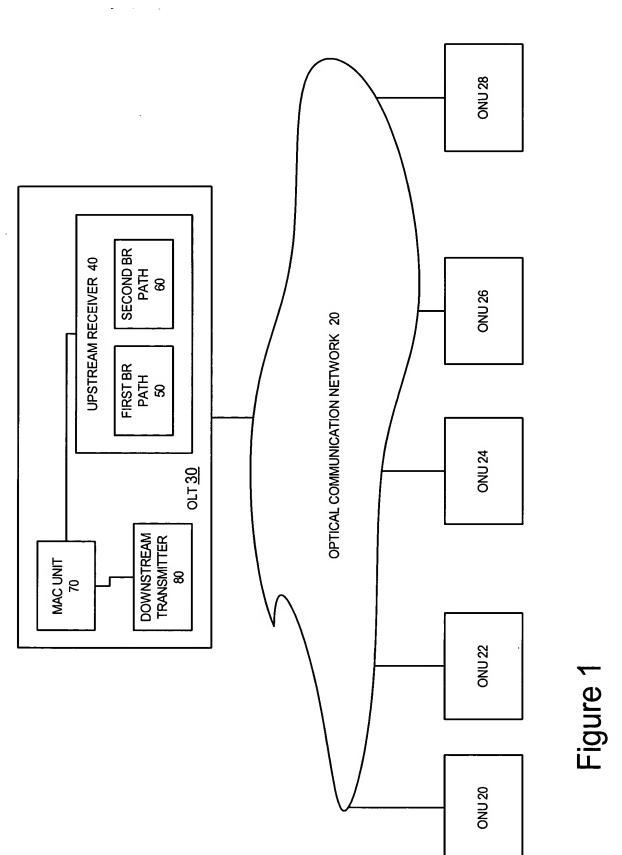
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A SINGLE LOW BIT RATE UPSTREAM BURST OF ONU 24 SIXTH TIME SLOT 106 9 兕 FOUR HIGH BIT RATE UPSTREAM BURSTS OF ONU 26 FIFTH TIME SLOT 105 甼 甼 兕 兕 FOUR HIGH BIT RATE UPSTREAM BURSTS OF ONU 28 FOURTH TIME SLOT 104 兕 몆 甼 A SINGLE LOW BIT RATE UPSTREAM BURST OF ONU 24 THIRD TIME SLOT 103 9 A SINGLE LOW BIT RATE UPSTREAM BURST OF ONU 22 SECOND TIME SLOT 102 9 兕 FOUR HIGH BIT RATE UPSTREAM BURSTS OF ONU 28 FIRST TIME SLOT 101 兕 甼 兕

## FIGURE 2

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downstream transmitting a grant to a network unit to upstream transmit information during a certain time-slot 202

requesting that network unit 28 to transmit information at another bit-rate 204

receiving the transmission and determining its bit-rate 206

Optional - additional iterations

<u>200</u>

FIGURE 3

FIRST TIMESLOT 101 FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH TIMESLOT\* TIMESLOT\* TIMESLOT\* TIMESLOT\* 111 112 113 114 **GRANT OF FIRST** TIMESLOT\* **GRANT OF SECOND** TIMESLOT\* **GRANT OF FIRST TIMESLOT GRANT OF THIRD** TIMESLOT\* **GRANT OF SECOND GRANT OF FOURTH TIMESLOT** TIMESLOT\* GRANT OF 109TH GRANT OF 51<sup>TH</sup> TIMESLOT\* **TIMESLOT** GRANT OF 111TH GRANT OF 52ND **TIMESLOT\* TIMESLOT** GRANT OF 112ND GRANT OF 53ND TIMESLOT\* TIMESLOT SECOND GRANT TABLE 430 FIRST GRANT TABLE 400

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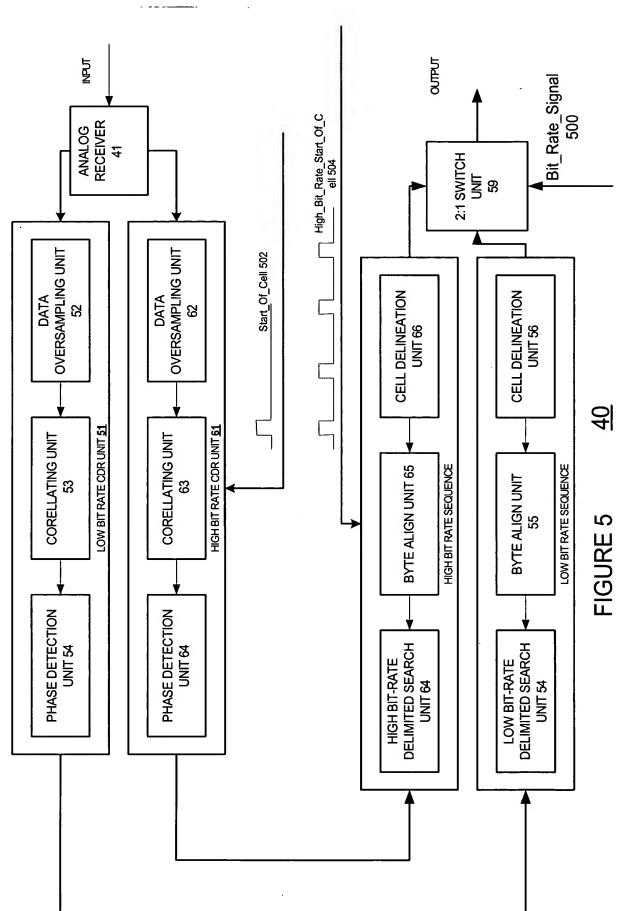
FIGURE 4

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receiving requests for transmitting information towards the apparatus.
610

issuing data grants in response to at least the requests; wherein at least one data grant authorizes a first network unit to transmit data at a first bit-rate during at least one time-slot and at least one other data grant authorizes a second network unit to transmit data at a second bit-rate during at least one other time-slot, whereas the second bit-rate differs from the first bit-rate.

620

requesting one or more multiple bit-rate network units to transmit at a certain bit-rate out of the multiple bit-rates

630

<u>600</u>

FIGURE 6